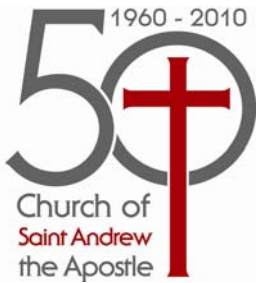
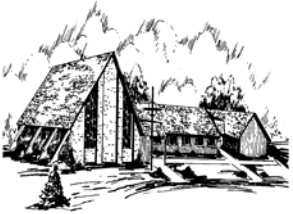


The Messenger



July/August
2010

- 50th anniversary
- Christmas in July
- Pumpkinfest
- TGIF
- Rock Cats



Inside this issue:

50th celebration	3
Christmas in July, TGIF	4
Pumpkinfest	5
Music Director Notes, Rock Cats	6

Rector's Message The Power of Adoration Prayer

My wife, Wendy, asked me what the title of my rector's message would be, and I quickly chimed, "the power of adoration prayer." She gave me a puzzled look, and said, "I've never heard of that before." Therein lies the great challenge of the contemporary church. We have forgotten the power and peace provided by adoration prayer. Even worse, we have forgotten what adoration prayer even is.

If you're looking for a spiritual director who can help you understand the significance of adoration prayer, I would direct you to the writings of Evelyn Underhill. If you were to ask me who the three most significant figures in 20th Century Anglicanism were, in a heartbeat I would respond, "C. S. Lewis (also the most influential Christian in the 20th Century), Nobel Prize winner, Bishop

Desmond Tutu and Evelyn Underhill." C. S. Lewis and Bishop Tutu, almost everyone knows; but, sadly, almost no one knows who Evelyn Underhill was. Perhaps that will change now that she has a feast day in the Episcopal church celebrated on June 15.

Evelyn Underhill grew up in a loving home and was, from the beginning, naturally religious. Powerfully religious. She almost became a nun and often flirted, particularly early on, with Roman Catholicism. She married well. Her husband was a successful attorney, who himself, while attending church every Sunday, was far more inclined towards yachting than to religious study. Evelyn never had children, and let's be honest, children take up an enormous amount of time and energy. Whatever void the absence of



children may have created in her life, Evelyn Underhill filled

that void by throwing her heart and soul into the study of religion and also into direct communion with God. When one was in her presence, one realized that she was a person who was on intimate terms with the Almighty. She was the real deal. While being a gentle soul and a proper Edwardian lady, Evelyn was, when it came to theology, often the smartest person in the room. She was the first woman invited to lecture at Oxford.

My favorite book by Evelyn Underhill is a tiny one entitled, *Concerning the Inner Life*. It's not really a book, but a set of spiritual reflections that were delivered to clergy over the course of a retreat.

Over for more....

Sometimes I feel as if she is speaking directly to me. Though it was still early in the 20th Century, Evelyn realized that the awe and wonder and supernatural power of intimacy with God was ebbing away. She wrote:

“We are drifting towards a religion which consciously or unconsciously keeps its eye on humanity, rather than on Deity -- which lays all the stress on service, and hardly any of the stress on awe: and that is a type of religion which in practice does not wear well. It does little for the soul in those awful moments when the pain and mystery of life are most deeply felt.”

Certainly, it is in giving that we receive, and the Gospel calls us to be the arms and hands of Jesus. That call to service is a significant aspect of Christian discipleship. But Evelyn’s concern, and I guess you could say my concern, as well, is that this has been an almost exclusive focus of much of contemporary, mainline Protestantism. Yes, it is in giving that we receive, but most of the time we’re all so tired and spiritually empty that we have very little left to give. Underhill writes:

“Only when our souls are filled to the brim, can we presume to offer spiritual gifts to other people. The remedy for that sense of impotence, that desperate spiritual exhaustion which religious workers too often know, is, I am sure, an inner life governed not by petition (praying for ourselves) but by adoring prayer.”

What exactly is “adoring prayer?” Think of St. Francis of Assisi repeating all night, “My God and all! What art thou and what am I?”, or the Psalmist who exclaims, “Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And what is there on earth that I desire besides Thee?”

Personally, I think we’ve become so frantic and compulsive with our texting, Facebooking, addiction to technology and our overall “busyness” that we have forgotten the wise words of St. Augustine who wrote: “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.” The obvious place to begin is Sunday worship. If you really focus on God (not always easy), you are mostly adoring God. I’m old enough to remember when Episcopalians used to enter church and reverently pray and talk to God. Only when the service was over would they enter into any loud chatter with one another. Even a sacred prelude by the world’s greatest composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, lovingly performed by our Music Director, Rosemary Gregory and our former Music Director, Beverly Timms, on a recent Sunday morning did little to break the “town meeting” atmosphere. At least we are friendly to each other!

I think that if we are truly honest, we know that we’ve taken our eye off the Main Thing - the praise and adoration of God which brings the peace we are all searching for. We have become very busy, plugged into our ipods and consumed by our daily duties. Evelyn Underhill astutely observed that “The world is full of jangling noises. You know that there are better melodies.” Amen. With that in mind, allow me to share a little prayer of adoration in hopes of lifting high the cross that points not only downward to humanity, but also up toward the awe and mystery of heaven .

Creator God, may we join

with the whole of your creation

in praising you, our Creator

through the fragrance

and melody of our lives

Love in Christ,

Father Bill

50th Anniversary Celebrations



Saturday, July 24th - Join us for a “St. Andrew’s family day of fun” at Lake Compounce Amusement Park. We have arranged for discounted group pricing, our own pavilion for a group dinner together, and even custom Tee-shirts so that we can easily spot each other throughout the day while enjoying the park. This will take the place of our parish picnic this year. Tickets are now on sale during coffee hour, so please sign up! The cost is \$40.00 per person which includes all the above, parking, PLUS an additional day pass back to the park on another day during their 2010 season. We are putting a cap on the pricing at \$160.00 per family. If you have a family of four, your cost will be \$160.00. However, if your family is larger than that, you will be capped at \$160.00. This is for immediate family members only. If you are bringing outside guests, the cap does not apply.

Saturday, September 25th - We’ll be gathering for an evening of wine tasting (and hors d’oeuvres) at Wethersfield’s Pitkin Center to toast to our next 50 years! Plan to join us for a great time and a special gift.

And more to come! - Stay tuned for information on additional events being planned for later in the year, and even next spring.

Christmas In July

Dear Parish Family,

We are setting the stage for our 3rd Annual Community Outreach Dinner on Christmas Day at Rein's Deli. Each year seems to get better as the word spreads among the clients of Hoccanum Valley Community Council. I just met with the owner of Lynch Toyota last week and he is on-board with providing toys for the children again. Our planning meetings actually began in March.

My appeal at this time is to the parishioners of St. Andrews who knit, crochet, sew or purchase hats and scarves for our gift bags. We need adult men and ladies sets only. We have lots of children's sets left over from last year (happily there were fewer children in attendance). But we are completely out of men's and ladies sets. We need approximately 150 sets for each. Just one set brings us closer to our goals. I will be collecting them this year at the end of November to have time to process everything. If you would like to participate, just bring or leave your donations in the Wells Room with my name on it.

The doors of Rein's are always open to anyone who wants to participate on Christmas Day. Each year gets a little more organized and we're learning how to involve our volunteers so everyone has some way to participate. We thank you all for helping to make this day special for so many in need. God Bless.

Bonnie Shebat and the Shebat, Rein Families

TGIF

The September TGIF is scheduled for Friday, September 17 at 7 p.m. All women from St. Andrew's are invited to join us! Mary Manwaring and I will lead a discussion of the book, Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom. It retells Albom's eight-year journey with two men of faith from vastly different backgrounds who, despite their differences, have many similarities and teach a basic lesson that there is "the profound comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself." Albom is the author of the international bestseller and memoir Tuesdays with Morrie, which was made into an award-winning television program starring the late Jack Lemmon, and two acclaimed novels, The Five People You Meet in Heaven and For One More Day.

Please watch future Bulletin and announcements for the availability of the book at local libraries, which may also be purchased at various bookstores. For questions, please see or call me at (860) 563 -7445.

Pat Kuh

Pumpkin Fest 2010

Looking for a day filled with fun and excitement? Come and participate at our Pumpkin Fest.

Date: October 9, 2010

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

We are looking for volunteers to help lead the event as “Area Captains” for the day:

Captains

Captain - overall responsibility for assigning floaters to different events

Captain - overall responsibility for collecting the money during the day

Captain - overall responsibility for scheduling youth group to rotate to the different events

Captain - overall responsibility for checking each event to see if they need any assistance

We also need volunteers in the following activities for the Pumpkinfest:

Committees/Activities

Set up (Friday)

Ticket Sales

Art and Crafts

Games

Face Painting

Inflatable's

Pony Rides

Hay Rides

Pumpkin/Mum Sales

Bake Sale

Food Concessions (inside & outside)

Silent Auction

Raffle/Teacup Auction

Clean Up

If you are interested, please contact Tom Slavin at Tslavin420@aol.com

We will also have “Sign up” sheets located in the back of the church.

Pumpkinfest

With Pumpkin Fest plans under way, we would like to extend a warm invitation to all Pumpkin Fest volunteers to come celebrate with us at our home on Saturday, October 9 after 6 pm. Fair weather only, BYOB. Please mark your calendars now if you haven't already, and volunteer 4 hours to help us run this treasure of a fair. We are also seeking NEW LEADERSHIP. Please consider this ministry as it is a very fulfilling one. Contact Father Bill, Tom Slavin, Mark Makwinski, Maria Townsend or Roy Bombaci if you would like to join the Pumpkin Fest leadership team. Wishing all a wonderful summer!

Roy & Maggie Bombaci

From the Music Director:

It is always a pleasure playing the organ for services at the Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle. The congregation does a fine job of singing and the choir members add to worship with their voices and dedication. Please make sure to thank the choir members when the opportunity arises.

Once again we invite members of the congregation to sing or play an instrument for the offertory or communion during summer services. Any suitable selections are welcome. I will be happy to accompany on the piano or organ if I am given sufficient notice. I may be reached after the Sunday service, through the office, by calling 860 648-4013, or by emailing me at rosemarygregory@att.net.

During the 50th anniversary year at Saint Andrew's we are trying to have some special musical moments in various ways. We did so during the Eucharistic celebration on May 9th. On June 20th Bev Timms joined me and the choir to make our final choir Sunday of the season special. For the prelude we played an organ/piano arrangement of *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by Johann Sebastian Bach and Bev accompanied the choir for a special rendition of *Brother's James' Air*. We are grateful to her for her willingness to participate. At this point we are communicating with John Rose, who was the consultant for the installation of our present organ at Saint Andrew's, to arrange for him to do an organ concert at Saint Andrew's. John is a member of the Hartford Guild of Organists and is the organist at Trinity College in Hartford. He is also a concert artist.

More special music anniversary news will be forthcoming in the fall. In the meantime, have a relaxing summer, but keep on singing!

Rosemary Bloniarz Gregory

The Fellowship Rock Cats Night—August 6, 2010

Once again we have reserved 120 tickets with special seating for the above date. Tickets are only \$6.00 per person and we have been so lucky to have the same price over the last five years. Sign up sheet and further details are in the back of the church. We are urging everyone to come and have fun with a magnificent fireworks show after the game.

This year, \$1 from the \$6 paid will go to defray some of the costs for prizes we purchase for our raffle for the Pumpkin Fest. So please, if you have not been before, come and join us for camaraderie with your church friends. We do need a headcount by 7/20/10. You may pay any of your fellowship committee team

LET'S PLAY BALL WITH THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISHIONERS

Karen Christensen; Gail Ferris; Liz Irace; Maria Townsend

**The Church of St. Andrew
the Apostle**

331 Orchard Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Phone: 860-529-7622
Fax: 860-529-5726
E-mail: office@thechurchofstandrew.org

We're on the Web!
www.thechurchofstandrew.org

July Birthdays: Elizabeth Pazdziora, Sandra Manager, Sean Gherard, Joy Franklin, Lisa Slavin, Herb Philbrick, Nathaniel Rodbourn, Shannon Maye, Kim Pita, Andrea Curry, Nicholas Gherard, Jared Peet, Julie Slavin, Tommy Slavin, Bonnie Shebat, Joyce Finnegan, Dick Manwaring, Kyle Kunzelman, Ryan Wesley, Kaitlyn Irace, Muriel Madden, Michael Ruetz, Bob Cathcart, Barbara Gent, Jean Miller-Smith, Alecia Franklin

August Birthdays: Josh Brouillard, Kyle Rosenberg, Daniel Markiewicz, Sal Orlando, Mark Rodbourn, Jonathan Brautigam, Christine Gherard, Dave Wing, Brittany Farr, Spencer McCooe, Tony DiPaola, John Woolley, Bea Moors, May Rosenberg, Elena Masiello, Kathy McCooe, Chris St. Jacques, Richard Philbrick, Alex Cannata, Sarah Smith, Will Curry, Bruce Crane, Polly Reynolds

The Church of St.
Andrew the Apostle
331 Orchard Street
Rocky Hill, CT
06067